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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/116 W

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R 291700Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4368
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2781

NOFORN

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS PFOR NATO CA FR BE
SUBJ PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU PLANS VISIT
TO WESTERN EUROPE IN FALL

REF USNATO 4541(NOTAL)

1. A SENIOR EXTAFF OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO POL COUNSELOR AUGUST 27 THAT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WILL MAKE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WESTERN EUROPE SOMETIME THIS FALL. OFFICIAL, WHO IS THE PRIMARY ACTION OFFICER FOR THE VISIT, WAS UNABLE TO GO BEYOND EXTAFF'S PRESENT TENTATIVE PLANNING UNTIL FURTHER GUIDANCE IS RECEIVED FROM PRIME MINISTER.

2. AS OF NOW, RECOMMENDATION IS THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL VISIT WESTERN EUROPE IN TWO STAGES: FIRST STAGE THIS FALL; SECOND STAGE AFTER CHRISTMAS. DURING FIRST STAGE,
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DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO BEGIN VISIT IN PARIS

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FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO BRUSSELS, PRIMARILY FOR TALKS WITH THE EEC AND NAC BUT WITH EMPHASIS ON FORMER. COUNTRIES COULD BE ADDED TO FIRST STAGE WITH SECOND STAGE OPEN. HOWEVER, VISIT TO EEC IN SECOND STAGE IS NOT EXCLUDED--INDEED THERE WAS SUGGESTION OF HOPE THAT PRIME MINISTER'S INITIAL TALKS IN FALL MIGHT PRODUCE POSITIVE REASONS FOR RETURNING IN WINTER.

3. PURPOSE OF VISIT NOT YET DEFINED IN SPECIFIC TERMS BEYOND ASSUMPTION THAT CANADA'S "IMPORTNAT" BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPE COMMON MARKET) WOULD BENEFIT FROM A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. BEYOND THAT IS FACT THAT SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER IN 1968 TRUDEAU HAS NOT OFFICIALLY VISITED WESTERN EUROPE. HE HAS BEEN TO LONDON IN COMMONWEALTH CONTEXT, TO MOSCOW, PEKING AND TOKYO BUT NOT--AS HIS CRITICS REPEATEDLY POINT OUT--TO ANY OF THE CONTINENTAL CAPITALS. SOONER OR LATER, TRUDEAU WOULD OBVIOUSLY VISIT THIS PART OF WORLD. THE CHOICE OF PARIS AS THE FIRST CAPITAL TO BE VISITED IS DELIBERATE AND SHOULD FORMALLY SIGNIFY A THAW IN CANADIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS--CHILLED SINCE CHARLES DE GAULLE'S VISIT TO MONTREAL IN 1967. BUT THE REAL TARGET HAS TO BE THE EEC WHERE CANADA VERY MUCH WANTS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY. TO DATE, CANADA HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF RESPONSE BY THE EEC TO ITS OVERTURES. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE INTENDING NOW TO TRY HIS HAND AT ENERGIZING THESE NEGOTIATIONS.
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